



H.R. 3690 – U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 3690 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Rep. Robert Brady (D-PA) on May 9, 2007. The House Committee on House Administration approved the legislation by voice vote.

H.R. 3690 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 5, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 3690 merges the police force at the Library of Congress with the Capitol Police Department. The Capitol Police Chief will make determinations as to the eligibility of each officer in the Library of Congress as to their ability to meet the requirements to become a Capitol Policeman. If the Chief determines that they do not meet the requirements to become an officer they will be given a civilian post with the Capitol Police. These determinations must be completed by FY2010.

This legislation assures that officers that are transferred will keep the same rank and pay as they were assigned at the Library. Any time that has accrued towards retirement will also be kept, as will any other benefits.

H.R. 3690 requires the Librarian of Congress to set forth security measures for the Library of Congress that will be reviewed by the Capitol Police.

BACKGROUND

The United States Capitol Police (USCP) was founded in 1828. The force was charged with keeping Members of Congress safe and protecting the Capitol building. Over the years, the jurisdiction of the USCP has grown and the size of the force has greatly increased. Today's police are charged with keeping the Capitol safe from terrorist attacks as well as other threats that may emerge.

Due to the proximity of the Library of Congress and the Capitol, discussions arose about the possibility of merging the Library officers with the USCP. A GAO report had been requested to analyze the feasibility of merging the two forces. The report outlined the positive and negative aspects of a merger and Congress has worked through those issues to ensure a smooth transition without causing undue burden on either department.

COST

“Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$2 million over the 2008-2010 period and less than \$500,000 a year thereafter. We estimate that enacting the bill also would cause small annual increases in both revenues and direct spending, resulting in a net increase in the federal deficit of about \$1 million over the 2008-2017 period.”

STAFF CONTACT

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